

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USUN N 03098 170136Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5436

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T USUN 3098

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF

SUBJECT: SAG AMBASSADOR SOLE CALL ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG: NUCLEAR
COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY: SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. SOLE,
ACCOMPANIED BY PERMREP EKSTEEN, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR
YOUNG SEPTEMBER 16 TO EXPRESS SOLE'S CONCERNS THAT US
POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICAN WAS "ALL STICK AND NO CARROT"--ES-
PECIALLY IN REGARD TO MATTERS OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION.
DISCUSSION OF STEVE BIKO'S DEATH REPORTED SEPTEL.
END SUMMARY.

2. SOLE BEGAN BY DESCRIBING HIS OWN EXTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC
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BACKGROUND IN NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AND OTHER IAEA MATTERS.
"I KNOW THE WEAKNESSES OF THE SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM", HE SAID,
"BECAUSE I HELPED DESIGN IT."

3. IN REFERENCE TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE HANDED TO HIM IN
THE DEPARTMENT ON NUCLEAR MATTERS SEPTEMBER 15, SOLE
COMPLAINED THAT THE US WAS OFFERING SOUTH AFRICA "NO

INCENTIVE TO COOPERATE." AMBASSADOR YOUNG REPLIED THAT NON-PROLIFERATION WAS A CENTRAL FOCUS OF US FOREIGN POLICY AND WE HAD LEANED HARD ON OTHERS, NOTABLY BRAZIL AND THE FRG, EVEN TO THE POINT OF DAMAGING OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES. HE HAD HEARD THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA HAD GIVEN A RUDE RECEPTION TO THE US EMISSARIES MAKING A PARALLEL DEMARCHE IN PRETORIA. SOLE DISAGREED THAT US POLICY WAS EVENHANDED, SAYING THAT, IN CONTRAST TO THE BRAZILIAN CASE, "YOU GAVE US NO ASSURANCES OF COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING A RESOURCE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US. WE WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED ALL THE GUARANTEES YOU WISHED. THIS WORRIES ME GREATLY. I SEE NO SIGN THAT THE US IS WILLING TO WORK WITH US TO DEVELOP, UNDER FULL SAFEGUARDS, A PROCESS WHICH WE OURSELVES HAVE DESIGNED." SOLE SAID THAT, EVEN IF THE SAG WENT ALONG 100 PERCENT WITH US REQUESTS, THERE WERE STILL NO ASSURANCES OF US COOPERATION. "MY IMPRESSION FROM THE AIDE MEMOIRE," SOLE CONTINUED, "IS THAT THE NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IS DEAD. PRESSURES WITHOUT INCENTIVES," HE CONTINUED, "WILL CREATE A BACKLASH IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT FRIGHTENS ME."

4. SOLE THEN SAID THAT "CONFRONTATIONS" LIKE YESTERDAY'S COULD IMPERIL SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION ON RHODESIA WHICH WAS "AS FULL AS IT COULD POSSIBLY BE."

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5. YOUNG REPLIED THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE DOUBTED WHETHER SANCTIONS AND PRESSURES ON SOUTH AFRICA COULD BE EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING THE DOMESTIC CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT THE US WOULD LIKE TO SEE. PROGRESS COULD BETTER BE ACHIEVED IN OTHER WAYS. NONETHELESS, YOUNG CONTINUED, THE KEY TO CHANGE INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA WAS HOW WELL EVENTS TURNED OUT IN RHODESIA. AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION, A GOOD EXPERIENCE IN RHODESIA COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR POSITIVE CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF.

YOUNG

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